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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS 2200 MILL ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 (703) 838-1791

TONNAGE INDEX INCREASES IN JANUARY

General freight carrier tonnage increased 3 points in January, 1986, from December, 1985 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 139.6(p) with 1967 = 100, the January tonnage is 2.2 percent above December's 136.6(r). The current month's volume is 1.3 points (0.9 percent) below the tonnage level in January, 1985.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey increased from 3.95 million tons in December to 4.12 million tons in January, 1986. Actual tons increased 4.3%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days increased the January index level to 139.6(p).

From December, 1985 to January, 1986, Industrial Production increased 0.3% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index increase of 2.2%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH JANUARY, 1986

1967 = 100

	JAN 1986	DEC 1985	NOV 1985	JAN 1985	Monthly % Change 11/85 12/85	Monthly % Change 1/86 12/85	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	139.6p	136.6r	140.3f	140.9f	-2.6	+2.2	-0.9
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	132.1p	126.6r	131.1f	133.3f	-3.4	+4.3	-0.9
Industrial Production Index[2,5] (total)	126.7	126.3	125.1	123.6	+1.0	+0.3	+2.5
Manufacturers (total)	129.8	129.3	128.3	125.9	+0.8	+0.4	+3.1
Non-durable	128.4	128.2	127.1	123.2	+0.9	+0.2	+4.2
Durable	130.8	130.1	129.1	127.8	+0.8	+0.5	+2.3
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	481.3	480.9	473.6	454.6	+1.5	+0.1	+5.9
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	296.2	297.2	296.7	292.7	+0.2	-0.3	+1.2
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	328.4	327.4	326.6	316.1	+0.2	+0.3	+3.9
Tonnage Reported by 129 Carriers in Jan., 1986 (000 tons)	4,115	3,946	n.a.	4,099	n.a.	+4.3	+0.4

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services
5 - 1977=100

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
January	152.7	129.8	126.9	144.4	140.9	139.6p
February	153.0	133.6	127.3	142.2	138.5	
March	152.9	130.8	128.9	143.4	139.1	
April	153.0	130.8	130.2	146.3	137.3	
May	153.5	130.9	133.6	144.0	137.1	
June	150.8	131.8	136.1	143.1	133.7	
July	151.2	128.4	150.9	144.8	132.2	
August	145.8	129.7	137.1	145.3	134.3	
September	143.9	128.5	138.5	141.1	135.1	
October	139.8	125.4	138.4	144.0	138.3	
November	135.8	121.3	138.7	145.2	140.3	
December	131.1	125.9	142.3	143.3	136.6r	

Note: All Data 1981 - 1985 Have Been Updated In This Table And In The Following "Moving Average"

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1984	143.0	143.3	144.0	144.6	144.5	144.0	144.4	143.7	143.5	143.4	144.2	143.1
1985	140.9	139.5	138.3	137.8	136.0	134.3	133.4	133.9	135.9	137.0	138.4r	138.8p

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.

Each year the historical monthly truck tonnage index is re-analyzed to determine the seasonal and trading day factors for the upcoming year. In this process, the prior years' factors also become modified as then does the historic tonnage index. Thus, in this monthly release, the historic data is the revised tonnage index for 1981 through 1985. For your information, the point change difference in these values is shown below. Example: for Jan. 1981, the revised tonnage index is a 152.7; the previously published figure was 153.2; the revision resulted in a -0.5 point lose in that month.

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Jan.	-0.5	0.1	-0.6	NC	-0.2
Feb.	0.2	0.6	0.9	2.1	2.0
Mar.	0.1	0.3	NC	-0.4	0.2
Apr.	0.1	0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.2
May	0.3	-0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.7
Jun.	-0.2	-0.8	-0.6	0.7	0.5
Jul.	1.0	0.1	0.8	0.9	1.0
Aug.	-0.4	0.2	NC	0.3	-0.9
Sep.	-0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.7	NC
Oct.	-0.8	-0.1	-1.1	-0.7	-1.0
Nov.	-0.5	-1.1	-1.3	-1.8	-2.4
Dec.	-0.3	0.3	-1.0	-1.0	-0.4

Below are the combined seasonal and trading day factors which will apply to the months of 1986. To translate the unadjusted tonnage data into its adjusted level, divide the unadjusted index by the seasonal and trading day factor.

Combined Seasonal and Trading Day
Adjustment Factor - 1986

Jan.	0.9461
Feb.	0.9371
Mar.	1.0562
Apr.	1.0082
May	1.0125
Jun.	1.0370
Jul.	0.9758
Aug.	0.9879
Sep.	1.0796
Oct.	1.0722
Nov.	0.9197
Dec.	0.9623